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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Bo Carlstrom

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EXAMINER

GAY, JENNIFER HAWKINS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Larsson (US 4,968,068).

Regarding claim 7: Larsson discloses a drill rod for percussive rock drilling (the examiner notes that Larsson does not teach that the below features are part of a drill bit but the coupling disclosed therein is considered capable of being used or part of a drill bit). The drill rod includes the following features:

- A central recess (Figure 1) having an internal thread 17 provided along a portion of the recess.
- An abutment surface 20 at an inner end of the recess.
- A length L' defined from the abutment surface to a point where an imaginary coaxial circular cylinder ceases to contact a crest of the thread. The quotient of L' divided by the diameter Di of the imaginary cylinder is within the range of 1-2 (see included figure). (The examiner recognizes that Larsson neither specifically teaches or shows this feature but notes that a measurement of Figure 1 shows that L' can be taken to be approximately 6.5 mm and Di can be taken to be approximately 3.5 mm. While drawings cannot be considered to scale, the ratio of the dimension of two parts is considered to be a value that will not change when the scale of the figures is.)

Regarding claims 8, 10: The quotient is approximately 1.8, which is considered to encompass 1.6.

Regarding claim 9: Di is less than 36 mm.

Applicant has argued that Larsson does not teach specific dimensions for the length and diameter of male or female thread. Applicant has further argued that the figures cannot be relied upon to teach dimensions for the length or diameter.

While the examiner recognizes that Larsson does not recite a value for the length or diameter of the male or female thread, the figures provide a visual reference to the ratio between the two dimensions. The examiner further recognizes that figures cannot be taken to be to scale or used to determine the value for dimensions depicted therein however the ratio of these values can be assumed to be approximately the same regardless of the scale on which the figures are taken. As the figures of Larsson show a mechanical device whose functionability is dependent on the size and shape of the device, the ratio of the length and diameter of the male and female threads must be within a certain range in order for the device to maintain the same desired functionality.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

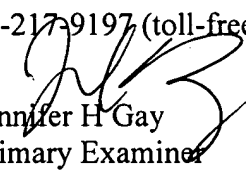
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer H. Gay whose telephone number is (571) 272-7029. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00 and Friday, 6:30-1:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jennifer H Gay
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

JHG
August 7, 2006